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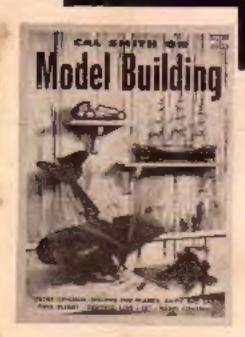
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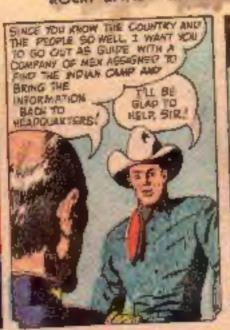
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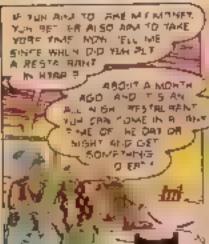






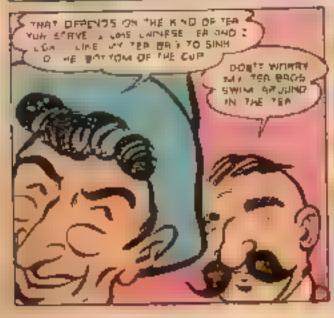


















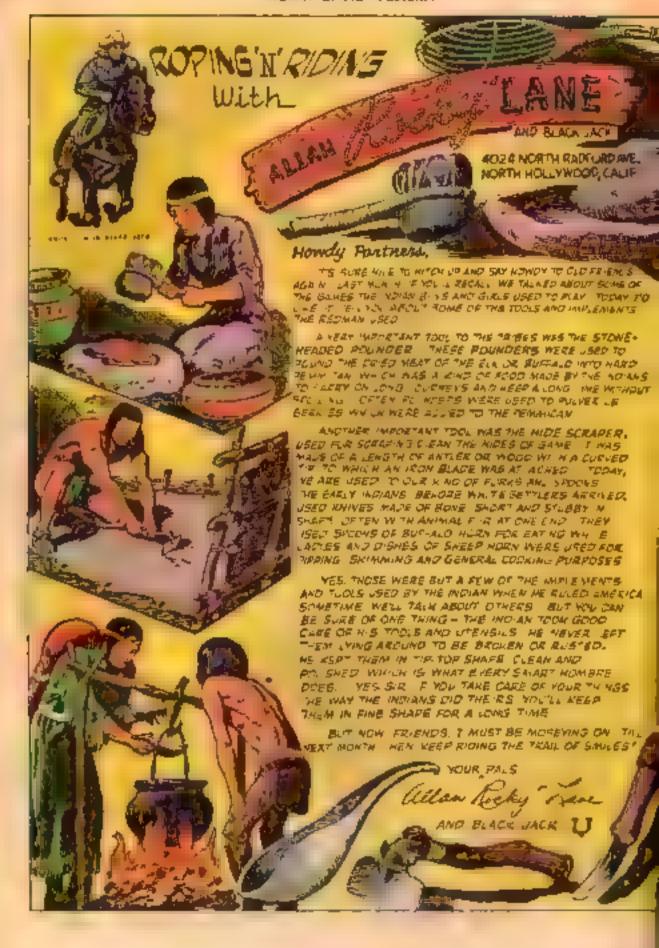


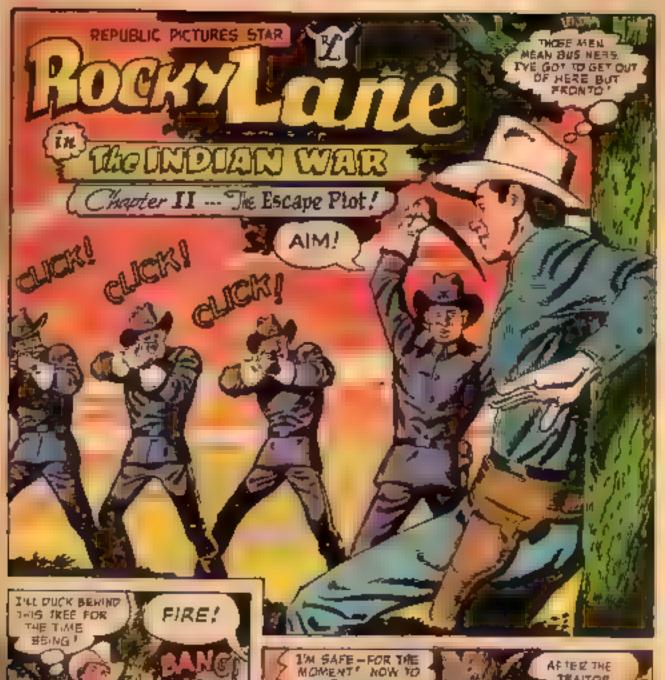












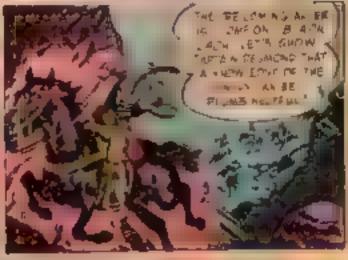


















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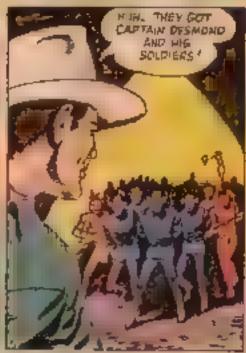












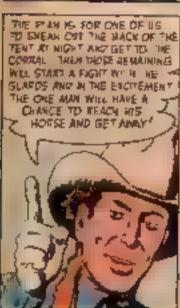


















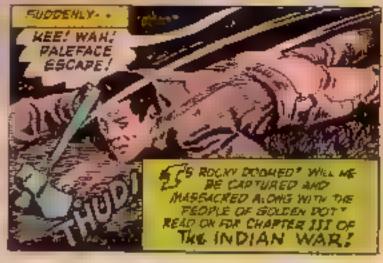














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SINGLE ISSUE OF







WITS AGAINST GUN

By Eundo Brader

by trade, but a builty by nature. He was the best shot over at the Bat-X ranch, and he never let enybody forget it. Swaggering, laughing, boasting, be could outshoot any ranny in the outfit, in any sort of contest. One of his favorite tricks was to pick a mock fight with one of the waddies, challenge him to a draw and then easily shout the gun out of his stinging hand. The humiliation, to the victim, was always worse than death could have been. Dead, you wouldn't have to listen to his gleeful roar of laughter

Boffalo Norton was always happiest when a new cowpoke joined the putfit. He would lich his lips in anticipation, And so it was the day a tall, sine galoot by the name of Sherman Desmond signed up for his virtual's

After he was assigned his bank at see B f follo Norton sized him up with a squint. The other men waited, knowing what was coming, feeling sorry for the nowcomer,

"Hey pard," drawled Norton, as Sherman Destrond took a look around painte. "I'm Bullalo Norton and you'll take off you hat when yeh speak to me havey?"

Desmond turned, surprised "What's that?"

"Vub heard me," Norton growled, "Off with yore has or else."

Desmond's face clouded. "Who are you to

Norton grinned. It always worked. "I gave yub yore chance," be drawled, taking out his gun, firing, and returning it to his hip in one smooth morton.

The hat sputs off the young ranny's head into the durt. He turned slowly, eyes publicd

This was always Norton's big moment, for the insulted man would usually draw at this point, in fury, to save his pride. And laughing. Norton would maily spin his shooting iron away

But Demond didn't react the right way. He just stared at Norton blanksy, and then grinned, "Having fun, pard?" he said, picking up his has

Nortee staggered a little, He had never run

up against this situation before ale edtowardly at the way his joke was backfiring.

What's the matter?" he mocked "Yuk white-livered? Haven't yuh got the gumption to draw on me? Man, I tokulted yuh!"

"Reckon you did," Desmond drawled back

"Why?" Buffalo Norton thoked, represent the unexpected word. "Well, because--uit--

Because yo're looking for a fight, is that it?" Desmond united. "But that's plant sell y Fm not mad at you. Are you mad at me?"

Some of the other boys snickered it sounded so funny, And the joke was an Natton He couldn't get his victim to draw. And without Dramand rising to the bail and drawing. Norton was left holding the bag

Notion a face turned best red, with purple veins of anger swelling on his neck. "Draw, with value of the routed." You've insulted attact to now 1 m going count to three and should One wo."

What are you going to shoot at 2" Dramond or ed on Idly turning his back to only around carriedly

Nuring couldn't hold back a strangled "three" and then he stood with his gas in his hand, unable to shoot—not at a man's back. That would be plain murder, not fun.

But thurder almost seethed in Norton's beart as a rose of laughter came from the watching cowpokes "Looks like his tongue can outshoot yure gun, Buffalo?" yelped one ranny in delight

Norten resembled nothing so much as a raging volcano blowing its top at this point. He would be the laughing stock of the Rev X for days to come if he didn't get the other man a goat and make him draw.

Later that afternoon, Desmond was lighting a digarette, nonchalantly as if totally toneware that anything out of the ordinary had herponed. Norton's eyes aighted up, Walk his blacking motion, he drew and fired!

The eigenette vanished from Desmond's lips, just so he was putting a march to at! Desmond a cood rigid y for a moment then nodded has beed admirtingly.

"Nice a on ing. Norton," he said drawing a oriver do lar from his pocket and spinoing it to the air fee if you can bit that dollar in the air."

Antomatica visc on the right of the chot and knocked the civer contwined down. In a dead salence Beamond picked it up and handed it to Norton. Pard, that a mighty slick shooting Here, you con have the dollar Reckon your get o be not seen to be not be to large the tall ady took sick. I have

Norton stood paralyzed as if he'd taken root like a tree. You could almost see here slowly co lapsing itwardly like a pricked he from

"Mey North," cackled one of the men "Yah ought to go be a dentist. Trying to make that words pull his gun is worst that pulling each. How "

Norten growled like a woonded heat in desperation, he shot at Desmond's bonce making them, "Dance!" he shouted housely "Dance, yub low-down polecat!"

But Deamand second to have nerves of ster? He metaly looked down at the sparts of dist treat his feet, and then looked around quasically. "But I can't dance without some music, Norton, Maybe if you was to get some of the boys to wit p up a right smart tune, I might oblige."

Gun emp y and smoking. Notion stood there with an id offe expression, especially when he saw Desirated exacter over to his saddlebag and artists a long casuas bag, pulling some-thing out, All the men were bug-eyed dow

"Guns were never rightly my weapon." Developed drawled: "Learned this from the India is one time—shooting 4 bow and arrows.

That was what Desmond had drawn from the canvas bag—a long bow and a quiver of a war of the converse of the co

The bow went twang, the arrow went white and the core went apidning. And Despond had done if all with the careloss case of a gunelick shooting his roun! Mouths were hanging in atlent amazement, including Norton a

Desmond Jurned, eyes hard, "You had york Norton" Now it a my tarn?"

Whe fast word, an arrow blurred through
and took Norton a hat along, this a
"You alo't got a eigerstee in
the company of the package of

tubacco in your shirt-or you did have

Another arrow's point ripped open Norton's shirt pocket and spilled the tobacto suck total bis face.

Notion made a strangled noise like a man hanging at the end of a tope. "And now, Norton," Desmood suspeed, you wanted me to draw helden, Well. I'm ready! Bow against gun! Load up your gun and get ready!"

Grewling, recovering his confidence. Norton gaded up and paramed his gun back in his holster. "Yich mean york genna autohoot me with that hunk of wood?"

note," the lenged Desmond, with arrow no cool and bow ready "Draw pard—any time you're ready."

Dead minute fels, as the two men faced back other, rensely. Suddenly Norson drew like a tracking rattier But Deamond's motion was I be the high ming that can catch even the rattier answers. With a singing him, the a row knocked he gut away from Norton, who gave a started turks.

"Now dance, Norton, drawled Desmend, A flock of arrows supped at Norton, suppling his shins, forcing Norton to prance around like a burn a cer.

Five number later Pullalo Norton rode away from the Bar X at full gailep and was never seen there again?

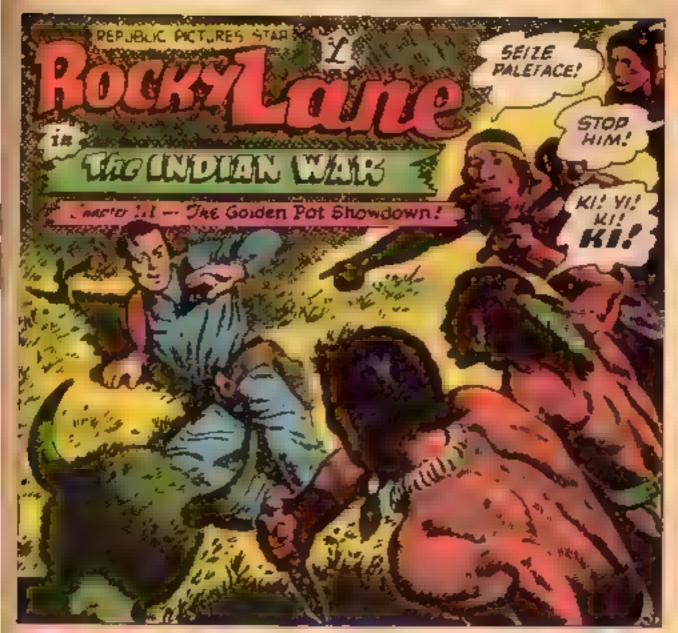
as Desmond put his how away Buckaroo, that's some shooting with a bow But why did you ever take up that Injun weapon— LOOK OUT ... RATTLER! Behind you, Des-

Restler! The one word that could make any number on the west whip out his gun and shoot, we haut hes taken. Desmind whiled and pulled his gun—but then he stood there with his take turned, wincing, unable to pull the trigger. The other cowpoke shot the side winder.

"Well, recken you know my secret new," Dramond said "And that answers your quest on, why I took up how and arrow. Never could stand the name of them shorting items."

"Holy boroud trads!" gasped the other cowpoke. "If Buffeld Norton only knew! You're GLM SHY!"

THE END

















































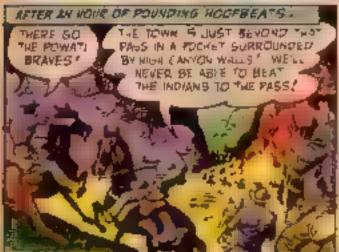




















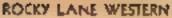








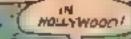




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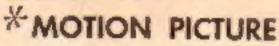
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